

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : G02B 6/44, C09J 7/02	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/27405
		(43) International Publication Date: 3 June 1999 (03.06.99)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/24957

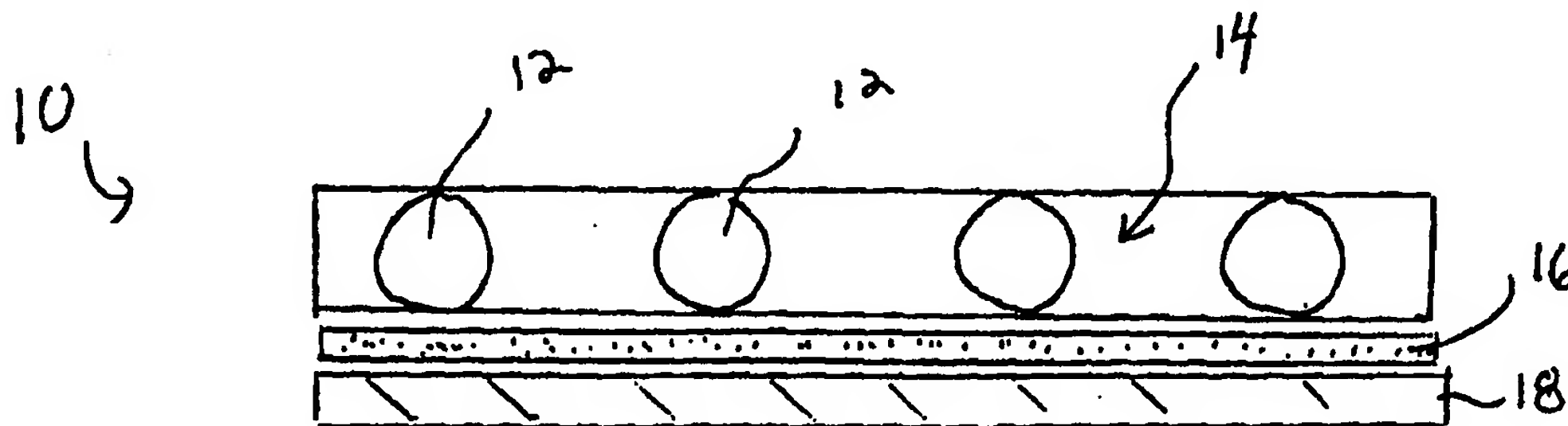
(22) International Filing Date: 20 November 1998 (20.11.98)

(30) Priority Data:
08/974,913 20 November 1997 (20.11.97) US(71) Applicant: LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC. [US/US]; 600
Mountain Avenue, Murray Hill, NJ 07974-0636 (US).(72) Inventors: BURACK, John, Joseph; 1635 Partridge Street, Toms
River, NJ 08753 (US). LING, Hung, Chi; 306 Ridgeview
Road, Princeton, NJ 08540 (US).(74) Agent: FREEDMAN, Barry, H.; Lucent Technologies Inc.,
P.O. Box 679, Holmdel, NJ 07733-3030 (US).(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR,
BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE,
GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ,
LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL,
TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, European
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR,
IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

Published

With international search report.

(54) Title: FLEXIBLE FILAMENT DEVICE WITH PRESSURE-SENSITIVE FLAME RETARDANT ADHESIVE



(57) Abstract

A flexible energy-carrying circuit device has reduced flame retardancy while maintaining desired levels of adhesion between the energy-carrying filaments and the substrate with use of a flame-retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive comprised of a polymer of one or more acrylic esters with bromine and phosphorous compounded into the backbone of the polymer to provide an adhesive having inherent flame retardancy. Small quantities of antimony trioxide may be dispersed in the adhesive to enhance flame retardancy.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Larvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

FLEXIBLE FILAMENT DEVICE WITH PRESSURE-SENSITIVE FLAME RETARDANT ADHESIVE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a flexible energy-carrying circuit device
5 having a pressure-sensitive, flame-retardant adhesive for bonding energy-carrying
filaments to a substrate, and to an improved method of adhering filaments and
particularly optical fibers to a substrate.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A flexible energy-carrying circuit device may involve use of a pressure-
10 sensitive adhesive to adhere energy-carrying filaments of the device to a
substrate. For example, FIG. 1 shows a fragmented cross-sectional view of a
typical flexible optical circuit apparatus in which an adhesive is used to secure the
fibers to a substrate. The apparatus 10 comprises a plurality of optical fibers 12,
encapsulated in an encapsulating sheet 14, such as polyurethane, nylon,
15 polypropylene, KAPTON,TM doped MYLAR,TM or aluminum foil. The
encapsulating sheet 14 protects the optical fibers, provides structural stability, and
keeps the fibers in place during handling, yet it also should be flexible so that the
apparatus may be mounted in an appropriate structure or connected to other
systems or machines. A pressure-sensitive adhesive 16 is used to adhere the
20 encapsulated fibers to a substrate 18. The substrate 18 is typically comprised of a
flexible plastic and advantageously is fabricated with a polymer of the type
commercially identified as KAPTONTM, which is non-flammable and does not
melt. A material that previously has been used for the pressure-sensitive adhesive
16 comprises number 711 adhesive, a resin available from Adchem Corporation
25 of Westbury, New York. For further background regarding fiber optic
structures, encapsulation techniques, and materials and methods used in these
structures, see U.S. Pat. No. 5,582,673 to Burack and Ling et al (inventors
herein), issued Dec. 10, 1996, entitled "*Optical Fiber Encapsulation
Techniques*," and U.S. Pat. No. 5,259,051 to Burack et al. (an inventor herein),
30 issued Nov. 2, 1993, entitled "*Optical Fiber Interconnection Apparatus and*

Methods of Making Interconnections," both of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

A drawback with this structure, however, is that the encapsulating sheet 14 particularly when comprised of thermoplastic material may melt when heated, affecting the structural integrity of the apparatus. More importantly, when the thermoplastic melts, for example, in response to a flame, it may expose the adhesive 16 to the air, causing the adhesive when flammable to ignite. Also, the temperature of these devices as well as other electronic devices employing adhesives may increase during operation, leading to flammability concerns.

It is desirable that optical circuits and other energy-carrying devices meet certain levels of flame retardancy. Optical circuits and electronic devices are tested for flame retardancy pursuant to standards known in the industry for measuring the flammability of plastics used in electronic devices and appliances, namely, the Underwriters' Laboratory (UL) 94 standards. The UL standards are well known and are also described in M. Robert Christy, *Standards, Bans, and Flame Retardants*, PLASTICS COMPOUNDING (Sept./Oct. 1993), at pp. 59-61. The UL 94 vertical (UL94V) standards have been applied to optical circuit devices, including the UL94V test and the 94VTM test, with the latter test (94VTM), applicable for thinner materials prone to distortion.

The flammability of optical circuits and energy-carrying devices has been addressed in many ways, including reconfiguring the devices and replacing the thermoplastic materials with materials having higher melting points. For example, one method has been to apply a second layer of KAPTON™ or other non-flammable coversheet 20 (FIG. 1A), over the thermoplastic encapsulant, which protects the thermoplastic and reduces the likelihood that it will melt. Another method involves rolling the system into a cylinder with the KAPTON™ substrate 18 facing out (FIG. 1B). U.S. Pat. No. 5,582,673, referenced above, describes encapsulation techniques involving materials other than thermoplastic in addressing flammability issues. While these methods are effective in reducing the flammability of the circuit overall, they limit the flexibility of the device and the configurations in which, and materials with which, the device can be fabricated. It would be beneficial to have a method of adhering the optical fibers to the

substrate which avoids the use of flammable adhesives or involves adhesives having reduced flammability.

Developing pressure-sensitive adhesives that have good adhesive properties and yet are non-flammable and suitable for use in fiber optic and other energy-carrying devices has presented many challenges. A pressure-sensitive adhesive may be defined as a material that bonds surfaces at room temperature and with the application of some (and preferably a low) pressure. Typically, materials with good adhesive, cohesive, and tack qualities are also flammable. Pressure-sensitive materials based on acrylates or polyacrylates, for example, are tough, resilient, and flexible materials that have excellent pressure-sensitive adhesive properties, but they are also flammable.

Typically, to reduce the flammability of a pressure-sensitive adhesive, combustion-inhibiting compounds have been added to the adhesive. The most commonly-used additive is antimony trioxide which often is used in combination with halides, such as titanium tetrachloride. Making an adhesive flame retardant can be more complicated, however, than simply adding the combustion-inhibiting material, because the additive may disrupt the sensitive balance of properties of the material. For example, certain phosphates, while combustion-inhibiting, will greatly weaken the cohesive properties of the adhesives and cannot effectively be used.

The use of combustion-inhibiting additives has been found to be impractical for optical circuits. For the circuits to meet desired levels of flame retardancy as previously discussed, quantities of combustion-inhibiting additives at greater than twenty-five percent of the total solids would have to be added to the adhesive. However, typical flame retardant systems such as those based upon antimony oxide tend to settle out of acrylic coatings and adhesives, and they opacify the polymer and detract from its adhesive properties. Thus, the addition of sufficient quantities of combustion-inhibiting additives to meet flame-retardancy standards decreases the tack of the adhesives to the point that they can no longer meet desired fiber placement tolerances.

Thus, there is a need for a method of adhering energy-carrying filaments and particularly optical fibers to a substrate which avoids the use of flammable adhesives or which reduces the flammability of the adhesives while maintaining

the adhesive qualities to a degree sufficient for such applications. This invention addresses this need. Further advantages may appear more fully upon consideration of the description below.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 Applicants have discovered that a flame-retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive may be used in energy-carrying devices such as optical fiber devices in which flame-retardancy is incorporated into the polymer backbone of the adhesive. Summarily described, the invention embraces an energy-carrying circuit device involving a substrate and at least one energy-carrying filament attached to
10 the substrate with a pressure-sensitive adhesive, wherein the adhesive comprises a polymer having bromine and phosphorous constituents compounded into the backbone of the compound, and small quantities of antimony trioxide may be blended in the adhesive polymer. The energy-carrying filament may comprise an optical fiber encapsulated in a sheet of thermoplastic material. Preferably, the
15 adhesive involves a composition comprising a solution or emulsion polymerization of one or more acrylic esters, dibromostyrene, and vinyl phosphonic acid, with or without acrylic acid, compounded with antimony trioxide. The invention further embraces a method of applying the adhesive in fabricating an energy-carrying device comprising casting the adhesive onto an
20 anti-stick liner, curing the adhesive, pressing the adhesive and liner onto a substrate, and peeling the liner.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a better understanding of the invention, an exemplary embodiment is described below, considered together with the accompanying drawings, in which:

25 FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional fragmented view of an optical fiber circuit involving use of an adhesive;

FIG. 1A is an alternative configuration for an optical fiber circuit;

FIG. 1B is another alternative configuration for an optical fiber circuit;

and

30 FIGS. 2A and 2B are bar graphs illustrating relative burn times of fiber optical circuit device components with FIG. 2A reflecting burn times with prior

art configurations and FIG. 2B reflecting burn times with the configuration of this invention; and

FIGS. 3A-3F illustrate a method of applying a thin film of the inventive adhesive to a circuit substrate.

5 It is to be understood that these drawings are for the purposes of illustrating the concepts of and/or applications for the invention and except for the graphs are not to scale.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Applicants have found that an optical circuit device meeting desired levels
10 of flame retardancy and adhesion can be obtained with use of a flame-retardant pressure-sensitive adhesive in which flame-retardancy is incorporated into the polymer backbone of the adhesive, thereby reducing the need to rely upon flame-retardant fillers or alternative configurations for the devices. A preferred adhesive for this application is described in co-pending U.S. patent application
15 serial no. 08/974914, filed by John J. Burack (an inventor herein), and Peter A. Yurcick, entitled "Pressure-Sensitive Flame Retardant Adhesive," filed contemporaneously herewith, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Preferably, the adhesive comprises a composition fabricated with a solution or emulsion polymerization of one or more acrylic esters,
20 dibromostyrene, and vinyl phosphonic acid, with or without acrylic acid, compounded with antimony trioxide. The high bromine content of the dibromostyrene provides good flame retardant properties, while the aromaticity of the compound assures good thermal and hydrolytic stability. The phosphorus content of this adhesive increases the efficacy of the flame retardant to the point
25 where only relatively small quantities of Sb_2O_3 are needed to obtain the desired levels of flame retardancy, such that the adhesive tack of the composition is maintained at a level suitable for use in optical circuits or other energy-carrying applications. Adhesives fabricated according to this preferred composition are described in the aforementioned Burack and Yurcick U.S. application serial no.
30 08/974914.

Applicants have found that these adhesives as incorporated into energy-carrying devices meet desired levels of flame retardancy while maintaining needed

adhesive, cohesive, and tack properties. For example, a latex adhesive composition was fabricated comprising about 1 percent vinyl phosphonic acid, 50 percent 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, 26 percent n-butyl acrylate, and 23 percent dibromostyrene, mixed with antimony trioxide at 10 parts Sb_2O_3 per 100 parts polymer. The wet adhesive was cast on a bleached kraft silicone release liner, air dried for 15 minutes, cured for 6 minutes at 200 degrees F, and transferred to a 2 mil KAPTON™ film. The adhesive-coated KAPTON™ films were tested for UV 94 ratings. In one set of tests, twenty samples were tested to produce six VO ratings and 13 V1 ratings. Therefore, of these twenty samples only one failed to produce a VO or V1 passing rating.

Similar tests were conducted with a solution polymer of the adhesive, comprising about 5 percent vinyl phosphonic acid, 35 percent 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, 35 percent n-butyl acrylate, 23 percent dibromostyrene, and 2 percent acrylic acid. This composition was mixed with 10 and 12 parts Sb_2O_3 per 100 parts polymer. The adhesives were cast on a release liner, transferred to a KAPTON™ film and tested for UV 94 ratings. In one set of tests, five samples using 0 parts Sb_2O_3 , five samples using 10 parts Sb_2O_3 , and five samples using 12 parts Sb_2O_3 were analyzed. The first set of samples (0 Sb_2O_3) produced four V1 ratings and one failure. The second set of samples (10 pts. Sb_2O_3) produced three V1 ratings, one V0 rating, and one failure. The last five samples (12 pts. Sb_2O_3) produced one V0 rating and four V1 ratings. Thus, of these fifteen samples comprising the solution polymer remixed with Sb_2O_3 only two failed to produce a VO or V1 passing rating.

The UL 94V flammability tests were repeated and reconfirmed for both emulsion and solution polymers remixed with 10 parts Sb_2O_3 per 100 parts polymer. Notably, films comprising Adchem number 711 as the adhesive, as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,259,051 to Burack et al., have an average burn time of about forty-seven seconds under UV-94 tests, whereas with the same parameters, the device of this invention exhibited far lower burn times, as reported in Table 1 below.

TABLE I

EXEMPLARY BURN-TIME RESULTS

Sample	Emulsion			Solution		
#	1st Burn (Sec.)	2nd Burn (Sec.)	Total (Sec.)	1st Burn (Sec.)	2nd Burn (Sec.)	Total (Sec.)
1	25	0	25	22	3	25
2	45*	-	45	13	7	20
3	25	3	28	25	8	33
4	20	5	25	40*	-	40
5	0	20	20	18	8	26
6	1	15	16	17	0	17
7	19	13	32	18	4	22
8	23	45*	68	25	3	28
9	18	13	31	11	8	19
10	0	8	8	40	-	40

*Indicates sample burned beyond the 5 inch mark.

5

The relative burn times are also illustrated in FIGS. 2A and 2B. FIG. 2A depicts bar graphs of burn times for prior art configurations. The gray-shaded bars of FIG. 2A reflect burn times for KAPTON®-urethane devices as depicted in FIG. 1, i.e., where KAPTON® is used for the substrate 18 and urethane for the encapsulant 14. The average burn time as reflected in FIG. 2A for this configuration was 47.16 seconds. The black shaded bars of FIG. 2A reflect burn times for KAPTON®-urethane devices having a KAPTON® cover sheet facing out, as shown in FIG. 1A, with an average burn time of 17.7 seconds. The white bars of FIG. 2A reflect burn times for KAPTON®-urethane devices having a KAPTON® cover sheet facing out in a cylindrical configuration, as shown in FIG. 1B, with an average burn time of 16 seconds. As can be seen, alternative configurations such as illustrated in FIGS. 1A and 1B are advantageous in producing lower burn times. However, in comparison, FIG. 2B depicts bar graphs of burn times for inventive configurations, with the gray-shaded bars reflecting burn times for embodiments involving solution polymer adhesives and the black-shaded bars reflecting burn times for embodiments involving emulsion polymers. The average burn times for the solution and emulsion polymers as depicted in FIG. 2B were 28.6 and 21.4 seconds, respectively. Thus, the burn time is significantly reduced with the inventive device without having to rely upon alternative configurations such as illustrated in FIGS. 1A and 1B.

25

The inventive devices were also tested for adhesive and tack properties and found to meet desired levels for optical circuit devices. In such devices, it is desirable that the adhesive have a peel strength of at least two pounds per inch and sufficient tack so a curved fiber with a radius of one inch will be held in place without allowing the fiber to relax and straighten out, and will be held in place to plus or minus 1 mil. after being pressed into the adhesive at about a one-quarter pound force. The adhesives further should be stable when exposed to standard environmental testing as is known in the industry, should not contain reactive constituents that might degrade the composite, and should not require the use of special procedures, such as gloves or ventilation, to handle the adhesive at temperatures up to 100 degrees Centigrade.

The tack of the adhesive refers to its ability to form an instantaneous bond by flowing and wetting-out of the substrate with virtually no applied pressure. Tack can be measured by a variety of methods which are known in the field including loop tack, rolling ball tack, or the like. A number of test methods known in the field are identified as the Pressure Sensitive Tape Council (PSTC) Test Methods, which include a PSTC-5 quick stick tack test. The adhesive properties refer to the ultimate bond realized over a time frame under a specified lamination pressure. A PSTC-1 test comprises a 180 degree peel adhesion test using stainless steel panels and a four and one-half pound rubber roller for contact pressure. Adhesion tests are frequently carried out after 0, 15 minute, 24 hour, 72 hour, and 168 hour dwell times at specified conditions of temperature and humidity. An increase in adhesion with time is indicative of the relative "wet out" of the adhesive. The cohesion reflects the internal strength of the pressure-sensitive adhesive and is measured by shear strength tests, such as PSTC-7 (a dead load shear test) and other tests known in the field including lap shears, shear adhesion failure temperature (SAFT), and Williams plasticity (compression resistance).

Adhesive films comprising the compositions as previously described were tested for adhesive, tack, and cohesive properties, applying standard tests as are known in the field. Summary results obtained from a plurality of samples are reported in Table II below:

**PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVE PROPERTIES OF
1 MIL DRY ADHESIVE FILMS TRANSFER COATED TO 2 MIL TYPE A MYLAR
CURE: 15 MIN. AIR DRY 6 MIN. @ 200° F**

	EMULSION POLYMER #1 (w/o Sb ₂ O ₃)	EMULSION POLYMER #2 (with Sb ₂ O ₃ at 100/10 ratio)	SOLUTION POLYMER #1 (w/o Sb ₂ O ₃)	SOLUTION POLYMER #2 (with Sb ₂ O ₃ added at 100/10 ratio)
Adhesive Properties:				
PSTC-1, 180° Peel Adhesion, lbs./in				
Immediate Dwell (Avg.)		2.0 C	2.6 C	2.5 C
15' Dwell (avg.)	3.5 C/4.0 PT	2.0 C	3.2 C	2.9 C
24 hr. Dwell (Avg.)	7.1 S/6.2 PT	2.6 C	3.6 C	3.7 C
Tack Properties:				
PSTC-5, Quick Stick (Avg.)		0.9 C	0.7 C	1.6 C/0.7 Z
Loop Tack, lbs. (Avg.)	0.8			
PSTC-7, Shear Adhesion, hrs.				
1" x 1/2" x 1000 g (Avg.)	0.05			
1/2" x 1/2" x 500 g (Avg.)		0.11 S	0.97 S	0.46 S
1/2" x 1/2" x 1000 g (Avg.)			0.25 S	0.1 S

5 **Adhesive Failure Code**

C = Clean, Adhesive Failure
PT = Partial Transfer
S = Split
Z = Zipper

10 Column 1 (emulsion polymer #1), involved a latex polymer comprising 1
percent vinyl phosphonic acid, 50 percent 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, 26 percent n-
butyl acrylate, and 23 percent dibromostyrene; column 2 (emulsion polymer #2)
involved the latex polymer of column 1 with dispersions of Sb₂O₃ added at 12
parts Sb₂O₃ per 100 parts polymer; column 3 (solution polymer #1), involved a
15 solution polymer comprising about 5 percent vinyl phosphonic acid, 35 percent 2-
ethylhexyl acrylate, 35 percent n-butyl acrylate, 23 percent dibromostyrene, and 2
percent acrylic acid; and column 4 (solution polymer #2), involved the solution
polymer of column 3 with dispersions of Sb₂O₃ added at 10 parts Sb₂O₃ per 100
parts polymer.

20 FIG. 1 reflects a flexible optical circuit device in which the present
invention adhesive may be used for the layer of adhesive 16. A ready-to-use
pressure sensitive adhesive film on an anti-stick substrate may be formed to
fabricate the optical circuit device. FIGS. 3A-3F illustrate a method of casting
the adhesive 16 and transferring it to the substrate 18 for use in the optical fiber
25 device. Preferably, as shown in FIG. 3A, the adhesive is first cast onto an anti-
stick release liner 22 which may comprise, for example, silicone release liner. The

adhesive is then air-dried and cured at temperatures of about 120-250 degree Fahrenheit to obtain a ready-to-use film and liner as depicted in FIG. 3B. Preferably, the adhesive layer has a thickness of about 1 mil dry, but can be coated from about 0.5 to up to 5.0 mils dry. Air-drying preferably is continued
5 for about 10-20 minutes and more preferably 15 minutes and curing is performed for about 5 to 10 minutes and more preferably about 6 minutes. In fabricating the apparatus of FIG. 1, the liner with the coating of adhesive may be pressed at ambient temperature onto the substrate 18, preferably comprised of KAPTON™, as shown in FIG. 3C. The release liner 22 is then peeled off, as shown in FIG.
10 3D, leaving the adhesive film adhered to the substrate, as shown in FIG. 3E. The optical fibers and encapsulating material may then be applied, as illustrated in FIG. 3F. Alternatively, the adhesive may be cast directly onto the substrate 18, without use of the release liner. In that case, a spray coating may be applied. A coating of about one millimeter in thickness is advantageous although coatings of
15 from about 0.5 to 5.0 mils in thickness may be used.

It is understood that the embodiments described herein are merely exemplary and that a person skilled in the art may make variations and modifications without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. All such variations and modifications are intended to be included within the scope of
20 the appended claims.

CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. An energy-carrying device comprising:
a substrate;
5 at least one energy-carrying filament;
a layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive disposed between the substrate and the filament for adhering the filament to the substrate, wherein the adhesive comprises a composition comprising a polymer of one or more acrylic esters with flame-retardant constituents compounded into the backbone of the polymer to
10 provide an adhesive and energy-carrying device having inherent flame retardancy.
2. The energy-carrying device of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of filaments secured to the substrate with the layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive.
3. The energy-carrying device of claim 1, further comprising an
15 encapsulant disposed over the filaments for protecting the filaments and providing structural stability.
4. The device of claim 2, wherein the filaments comprise optical fibers.
5. The device of claim 3, wherein the encapsulant is fabricated with a
20 thermoplastic material.
6. The device of claim 1, wherein the polymer is fabricated with the polymerization of one or more acrylic esters selected from the group consisting of butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, hexyl acrylate, isooctyl acrylate,
25 and vinyl acetate; a monomer of dibromostyrene; and a monomer of vinyl phosphonic acid to provide a polymer having bromine and phosphorous flame-retardant constituents compounded into the backbone of the polymer.
7. The device of claim 1, further comprising antimony trioxide (Sb_2O_3) blended with the polymer in an approximate ratio of 100 parts polymer
30 per about 6 to 15 parts Sb_2O_3 .
8. The device of claim 6, in which the polymer comprises a solution polymer having about one to five percent acrylic acid by weight.

9. The device of claim 1, wherein the acrylic esters comprise 2-ethyl hexyl acrylate and n-butyl acrylate.

10. The device of claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises flame-retardant constituents of at least about 11 to 16% bromine and about 0.25 to 5 2.5% phosphorus by weight.

11. The device of claim 9, comprising an emulsion polymer of 2-ethylhexyl acrylate and n-butyl acrylate, wherein the ratio of 2-ethylhexyl acrylate to n-butyl acrylate is about 2:1.

12. The device of claim 11, in which the polymer comprises about 1 10 percent by weight vinyl phosphonic acid, 50 percent by weight 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, 26 percent by weight n-butyl acrylate, and 23 percent by weight dibromostyrene.

13. The device of claim 12, further comprising antimony trioxide (Sb_2O_3) blended with the polymer in an approximate ratio of 100 parts polymer 15 per 6 to 15 parts Sb_2O_3 .

14. The device of claim 8, comprising a solution polymer of 2-ethylhexyl acrylate and n-butyl acrylate, wherein the ratio of 2-ethylhexyl acrylate to n-butyl acrylate is approximately 1:1.

15. The device of claim 14, comprising a solution polymer of about 5 20 percent by weight vinyl phosphonic acid, 35 percent by weight 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, 35 percent by weight n-butyl acrylate, 23 percent by weight dibromostyrene, and 2 percent by weight acrylic acid.

16. The device of claim 15, further comprising antimony trioxide (Sb_2O_3) blended with the polymer in an approximate ratio of 100 parts polymer 25 per 6 to 15 parts Sb_2O_3 .

17. The device of claim 1, in which the layer of adhesive has a thickness of about 0.5 mil to 5 mil.

18. An improved energy-carrying device of the type where a plurality of energy-carrying filaments are adhered with use of a pressure-sensitive adhesive 30 to a substrate, the improvement comprising:

a layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive disposed between the substrate and the filament for adhering the filament to the substrate, wherein the adhesive comprises a composition comprising a polymer of one or more acrylic esters with

flame-retardant constituents compounded into the backbone of the polymer to provide an adhesive and energy-carrying device having inherent flame retardancy, and wherein the flame-retardant constituents comprise bromine and phosphorous.

19. An improved method for adhering an energy-carrying filament to a substrate of an energy-carrying device, the improvement comprising:

disposing a layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive between the substrate and the filament for adhering the filament to the substrate, wherein the adhesive comprises a composition comprising a polymer of one or more acrylic esters with flame-retardant constituents compounded into the backbone of the polymer to provide an adhesive and energy-carrying device having inherent flame retardancy, wherein the flame-retardant constituents comprise bromine and phosphorous.

20. The improved method of claim 19, wherein the filament comprises an optical fiber, the energy-carrying device comprises an optical circuit device, and the adhesive comprises polymer is fabricated with the polymerization of one or more acrylic esters selected from the group consisting of butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, hexyl acrylate, isooctyl acrylate, and vinyl acetate; a monomer of dibromostyrene; and a monomer of vinyl phosphonic acid to provide a polymer having bromine and phosphorous flame-retardant constituents compounded into the backbone of the polymer.

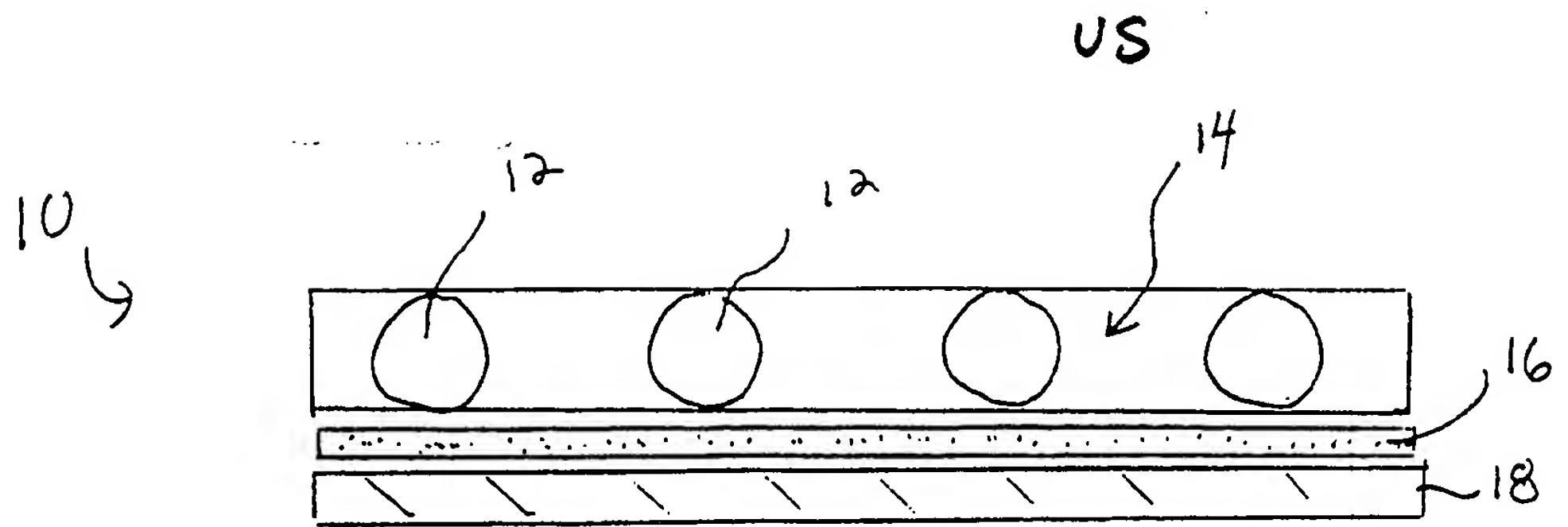


FIG. 1

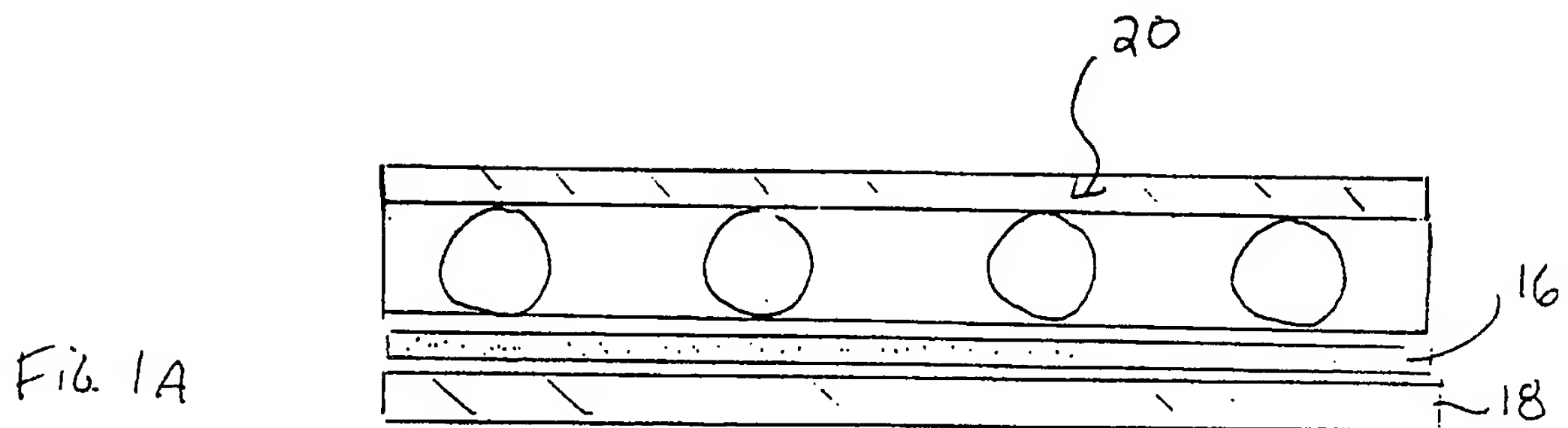


FIG. 1A

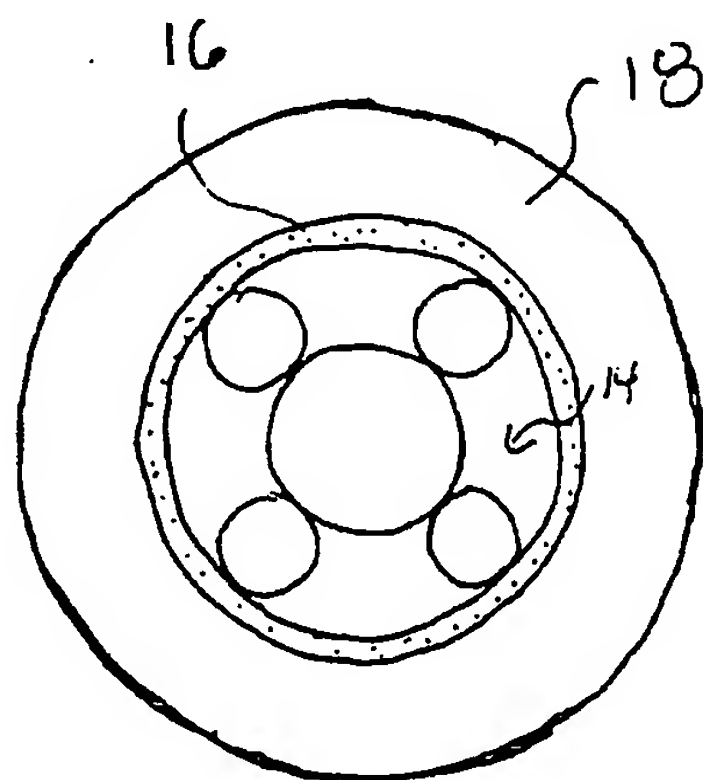
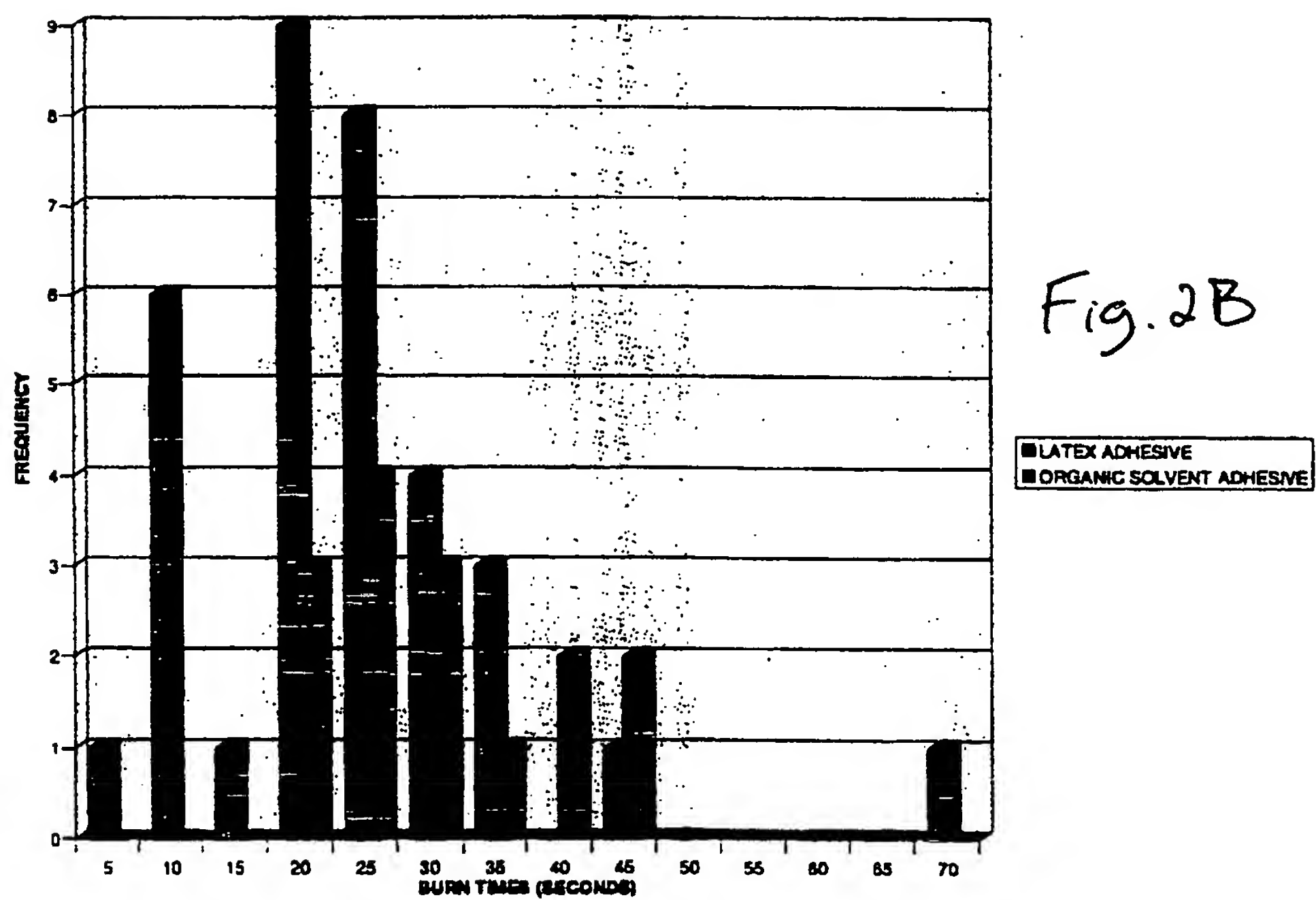
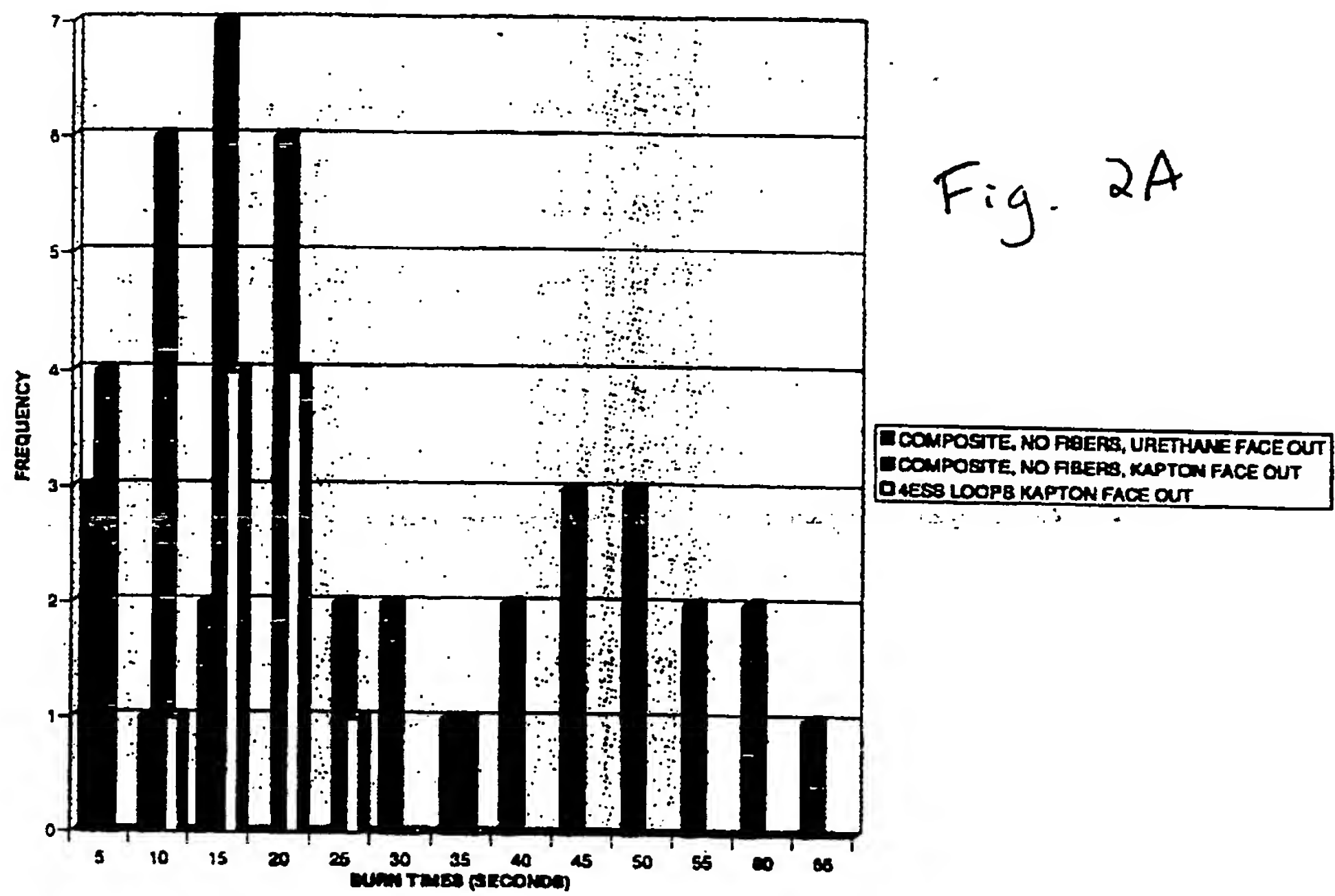


FIG. 1B



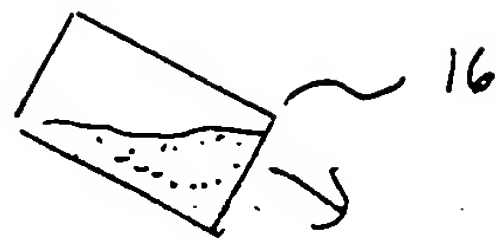


Fig. 3A

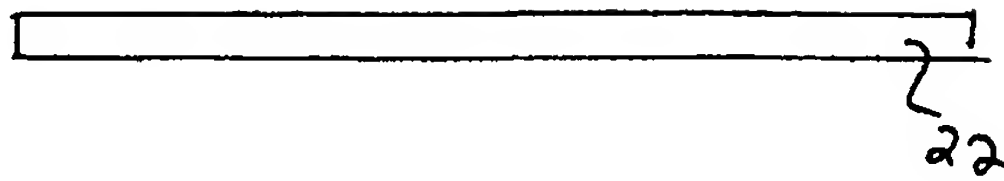


Fig. 3B

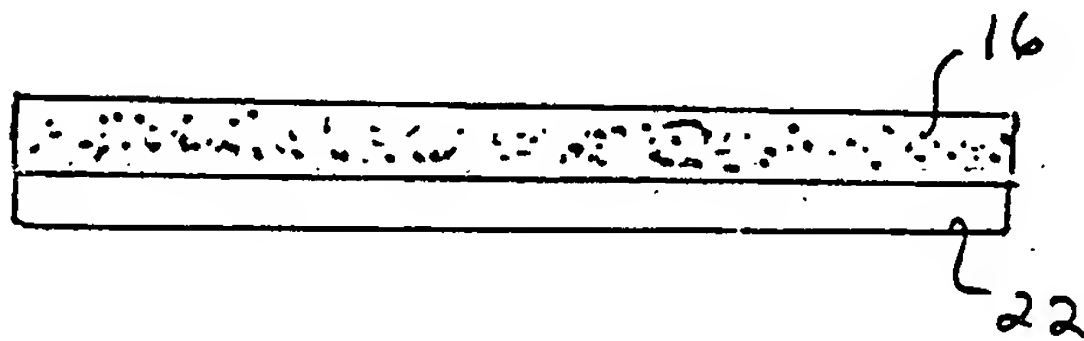


Fig. 3C

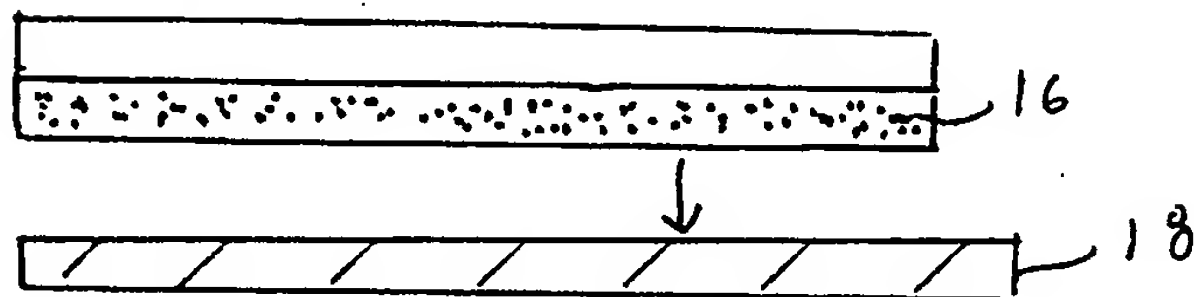


Fig. 3D

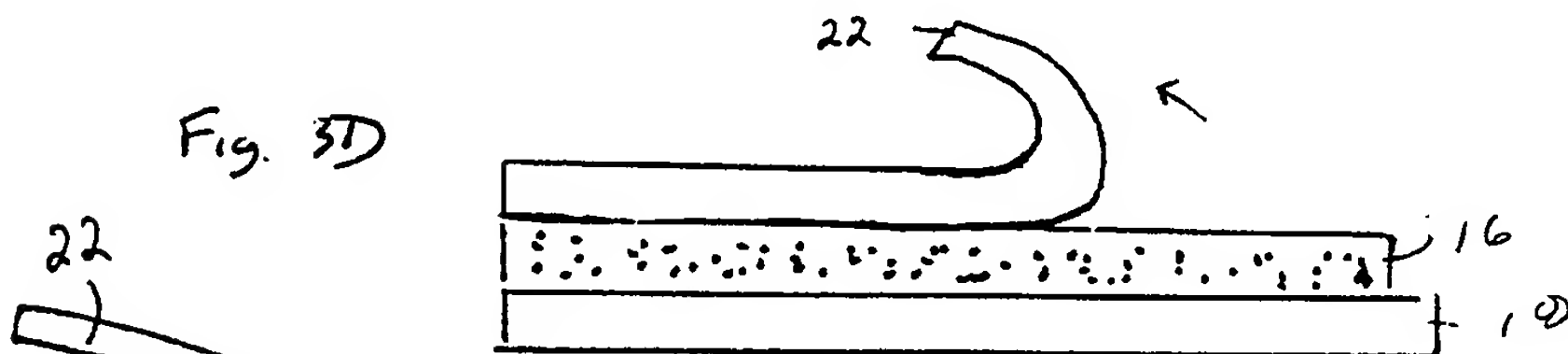


Fig. 3E

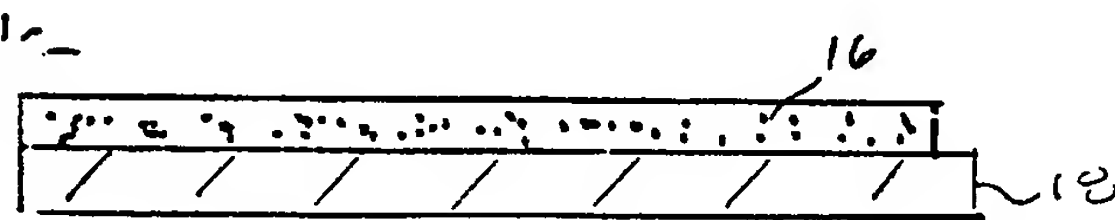
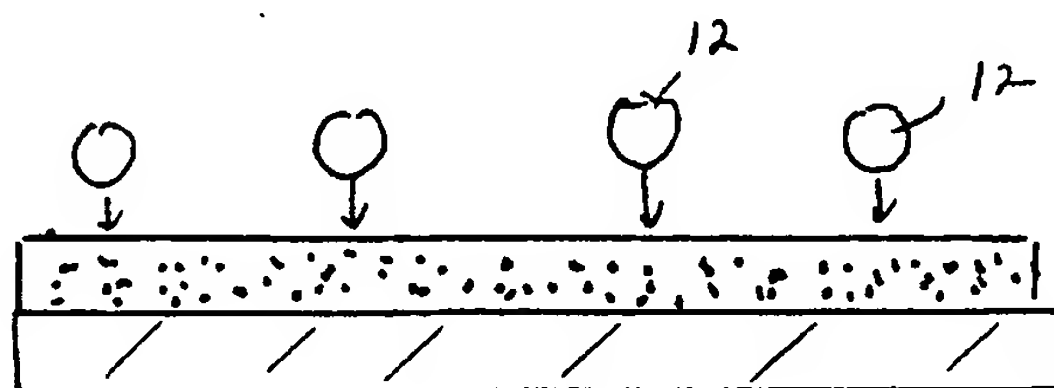


Fig. 3F



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/US 98/24957

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 G02B6/44 C09J7/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 G02B C09J C08L C08F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 259 051 A (BURACK JOHN J ET AL) 2 November 1993 cited in the application see column 5, line 58 - column 6, line 8; figures 7-9	1-20
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 011, no. 206 (C-433), 3 July 1987 & JP 62 030174 A (KANZAKI PAPER MFG CO LTD), 9 February 1987 see abstract	1-20
Y	US 4 035 571 A (BRUNNER ROBERT H ET AL) 12 July 1977 see the whole document	6,8,12, 13,15,20
-/--		

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 February 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

05/03/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Lord, R

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern. Application No.

PCT/US 98/24957

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 86 03508 A (GEN ELECTRIC) 19 June 1986 see the whole document ---	6-8, 12, 13, 15, 16, 20
Y	EP 0 600 428 A (NITTO DENKO CORP) 8 June 1994 see example 1 -----	6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 20

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 98/24957

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5259051 A	02-11-1993	DE 69309370 D	07-05-1997
		DE 69309370 T	31-07-1997
		DK 587336 T	21-04-1997
		EP 0587336 A	16-03-1994
		JP 2735464 B	02-04-1998
		JP 6174958 A	24-06-1994
US 4035571 A	12-07-1977	BE 830035 A	09-12-1975
		DE 2524525 A	18-12-1975
		FR 2273825 A	02-01-1976
		GB 1512404 A	01-06-1978
		JP 51002795 A	10-01-1976
		NL 7505905 A	12-12-1975
WO 8603508 A	19-06-1986	AU 580833 B	02-02-1989
		AU 5236786 A	01-07-1986
		BR 8507102 A	31-03-1987
		EP 0204819 A	17-12-1986
		JP 62501153 T	07-05-1987
EP 0600428 A	08-06-1994	JP 6166857 A	14-06-1994
		JP 8019391 B	28-02-1996
		DE 69317516 D	23-04-1998
		DE 69317516 T	09-07-1998
		US 5334686 A	02-08-1994

